

Quick—what's a rag-picker?—and assorted queries

By Roger Boye

EVEN THE NOVICE should score at least seven correct on the following easy numismatic quiz. As usual, the answers are at the end.

1. The Anthony dollar will be an exception to the rule that United States coins produced at the Philadelphia Mint do not carry mint marks. What other 20th-Century coin was also a major exception?

2. The federal government first issued paper money during the (A) War of 1812, (B) national banking crisis of the early 1830s, (C) Civil War, or (D) recession of 1894.

3. In 1838, the government opened branch mints in Charlotte, N.C., and Dahlonega, Ga. Why were those locations chosen?

4. What two currently minted coins have buildings depicted on the tails sides?

5. Why did the government start minting a silver three-cent piece in 1851? (Select two answers.) (A) To relieve a coin shortage, (B) to make buying a three-cent stamp easier, (C) to use up excess silver bullion, or (D) to force foreign coins out of circulation.

6. What coin first carried the motto "In God We Trust"? (A) Indian-head cent in 1909, (B) two-cent piece in 1904, (C) Liberty nickel in 1883, or (D) Morgan silver dollar in 1878.

7. The seal of the Treasury Department appears on all currency printed

today. Briefly describe the two symbols depicted on the seal.

8. Why did the U.S. government produce trade dollars from 1873 to 1885? (A) For circulation in the Orient, (B) For use in trade with the Indians, (C) to pay off federal debts, or (D) none of those.

9. What is the largest-denomination bill currently printed by the federal government?

10. "Rag-picker" is a slang term for a person who (A) buys only low-priced coins from dealers, (B) polishes coins with linseed oil, (C) collects paper money, or (D) collects rags.

ANSWERS:

1. The so-called war nickels produced in Philadelphia from 1942 to 1945 carry a large "P" mint mark on the tails side.

2. C.

3. The sites were relatively close to gold-producing areas in the Appalachian Mountains (only gold coins were produced at the two mints which closed in 1861).

4. The Lincoln cent (Lincoln Memorial) and Jefferson nickel (Monticello).

5. B and D.

6. B.

7. A balance scale, which represents justice, and a key, the emblem of official authority.

8. A.

9. \$100 Federal Reserve note.

10. C.